

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A refrigerator including a main body having a storage space formed therein, and a door having an insulating layer therein and rotatably coupled to the main body so as to selectively open and close the storage space, the refrigerator comprising:

a dispenser including a dispenser housing installed in a concave portion of a front surface of the door, wherein the dispenser discharges water to an outside of the refrigerator; and

a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer, and wherein the water tank stores water supplied from an external water supply source at a predetermined temperature and provides water to the dispenser for discharge to the outside.

2. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, wherein a rear surface of the dispenser housing has a curved shape and a front surface of the water tank has a curved shape corresponding to the rear surface of the dispenser housing such that a gap formed between the front surface of the water tank and the rear surface of the dispenser housing is substantially uniform.

3. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a temperature sensor provided on an external surface of the water tank, wherein the temperature sensor detects a temperature of the water stored in the water tank.

4. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the front surface of the door further comprises a display that displays a temperature of water stored in the water tank detected by the temperature sensor.

5. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 3, wherein the temperature sensor is seated in a sensor groove that is concavely formed in the external surface of the water tank.

6. (Original) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sensor groove is formed at a position facing the storage space when the water tank is installed in the interior of the door.

7. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a support rib formed on and extending from a rear surface of the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is fastened to the support rib and thus fixed to the interior of the door.

8. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a fastening rib provided on the water tank, at a position corresponding to the support rib of the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is fixed to the interior of the door by fastening the fastening rib to the support rib.

9. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water tank comprises a main body having a through-hole formed therein through which foam liquid that forms the insulating layer is injected.

10. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 9, wherein a plurality of the through-holes are bored through thinner portions of the main body.

11. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water tank comprises a main body in which water is stored, a neck formed integrally with the main body and having a relatively narrow flow sectional area compared to that of the main body, and a nozzle installed at an end of the neck, wherein the nozzle is connected to a drainpipe of the dispenser, the main body and the neck being formed by a blow molding with the nozzle inserted therein.

12. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 11, wherein a flow sectional area of the nozzle is relatively narrower than that of the neck.

13. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water tank is curved so as to conform to a rear surface of the dispenser housing adjacent thereto, and is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from the dispenser housing.

14. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 13, wherein the water tank is curved and is installed in the interior of the door so as to be spaced apart by a predetermined interval from the rear surface and a lower surface of the dispenser housing.

15. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 41, wherein the heater is installed on a rear surface of the dispenser housing.

16. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 41, wherein the heater selectively applies heat to water stored in the water tank so as to maintain the water at or above the predetermined temperature, and the heater selectively applies heat to a surface of the dispenser housing so as to prevent accumulation of frost.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, further comprising A~~
refrigerator including a main body having a storage space formed therein, and a door having an
insulating layer therein and rotatably coupled to the main body so as to selectively open and
close the storage space, the refrigerator comprising:

a dispenser including a dispenser housing installed in a concave portion of a front surface

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2008

of the door, wherein the dispenser discharges water to an outside of the refrigerator;

a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially surrounded by the insulating layer, and wherein the water tank stores water supplied from an external water supply source at a predetermined temperature and provides water to the dispenser for discharge to the outside; and

a valve chamber provided in the insulating layer of the door and accessible from the storage space, wherein the valve chamber includes a valve that controls water supply from the external water supply source and a filter that purifies the supplied water.

18. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 17, wherein the valve chamber is selectively covered by a chamber cover.

19. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water tank is installed in the interior of the door corresponding to a rear portion of the dispenser such that the water tank is accessible from the storage space, and the water tank is sheltered from cold air in the storage space by an openable and closable cover.

20. (Previously Presented) The refrigerator as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cover includes a cover insulating layer.

21-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A refrigerator including a main body having a storage space formed therein, and a door having an insulating layer therein rotatably coupled to the main body so as to selectively open and close the storage space, the refrigerator comprising:

a dispenser including a dispenser housing installed in a concave portion of a front surface of the door;

a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is spaced apart from the door liner and the dispenser housing by a predetermined interval, wherein the water tank stores water supplied from an external water supply source and provides the water to the dispenser;

a temperature sensor provided on a side of the water tank, wherein the temperature sensor detects a temperature in the water tank; and

a heater that operates based on the temperature detected in the water tank by the temperature sensor, wherein the heater generates heat when the detected temperature is lower than a preset temperature.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A refrigerator having a dispenser, the refrigerator comprising:

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2008

a main body including an inner case positioned within an outer case, the inner case defining a storage space that is divided into a refrigerating chamber and a freezing chamber by a barrier;

an insulating layer formed between the inner case and the outer case, and within the barrier that divides the refrigerating chamber and the freezing chamber;

a water tank provided adjacent to the insulating layer, wherein the water tank receives water from an external water supply source and stores the received water therein; and

a dispenser coupled to the water tank, wherein the dispenser dispenses water from the water tank.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The refrigerator as claimed in claim 1, further comprising~~ A refrigerator including a main body having a storage space formed therein, and a door having an insulating layer therein and rotatably coupled to the main body so as to selectively open and close the storage space, the refrigerator comprising:

a dispenser including a dispenser housing installed in a concave portion of a front surface of the door, wherein the dispenser discharges water to an outside of the refrigerator;

a water tank installed between a door liner that defines a rear surface of the door and the dispenser housing, wherein the water tank is spaced apart by a predetermined interval from each of the door liner and the dispenser housing and the water tank is at least partially

surrounded by the insulating layer, and wherein the water tank stores water supplied from an external water supply source at a predetermined temperature and provides water to the dispenser for discharge to the outside; and

a heater installed adjacent to the water tank, wherein the heater selectively generates heat so as to maintain water stored in the water tank at or above the predetermined temperature.